

Board of Health

March 24, 2009

5:30pm

Present: Al Jansen, Ivan Farness; Margaret Ruf; Grant Loy, Philip Wegmann, Jeff Kindrai

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Al Jansen, Chair.

CHANGES IN AGENDA: Ivan Farness made a motion to accept the changes in the agenda, second by Margaret Ruf. Carried

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: Margaret Ruf made a motion to approve the minutes of the February meeting, second by Ivan Farness. Carried.

Closed Session: Removed from agenda.

VOUCHERS: February vouchers totaling \$24,565.43 were reviewed. Ivan Farness made a motion to approve the vouchers, second by Margaret Ruf. Carried.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT: Margaret Ruf made a motion to approve the February Financial Report, second by Ivan Farness. Carried.

LOAN CLOSET FINANCIAL REPORT: Margaret Ruf made a motion to approve the Loan Closet Financial Report, second by Phil Wegmann. Carried.

DFC Grant Application: The DFC grant was discussed. A new five year cycle is beginning. If we are successful the grant amount increases from \$100,000 to \$125,000 /year. The new grant requires that two individuals complete two trips to Washington DC and one trip to Colorado (paid for by the grant). The grant was approved by the County Board in February. Ivan Farness made a motion to approve applying for the new DFC grant, second by Margaret Ruf. Carried

DIRECTORS REPORT – Jeffery A. Kindrai, MSPH, RS

-EH Program: We are struggling to find money to cover the Environmental Health Program. In 2010 if the consortium remains intact, it will likely be dependant on levy funding from 5-counties.

As a result of the limited ability to leverage levy funds in several counties, Vernon and Iowa Counties are pursuing becoming limited agents for the State. According to the State they will need an RS to supervise their inspection staff and oversee the program. They plan is to use Troy (our EH Coordinator) to fulfill these requirements. Some funding should be available from both counties through the program to support this. However, it will reduce the amount of time available for other activities.

This was mentioned to the Board so it does not appear as if the Director/Health Officer is trying to covertly by-pass the County Board's decision (February, 2009) not to approve the full Agent Status program. If we do not provide this service it is likely that Vernon and Iowa counties would not be able to contribute adequate funding for the consortium. Grant County is not considering becoming limited agents at this time (based on the County Board's decision regarding the full program and a lack of

staff to do the inspections). However, the topic may be reviewed at a later date if the EH Consortium disbands as a possible way to help offset some of the levy that would be needed for infrastructure for unfunded mandates.

-Lay Offs: Several Health Department staff have reported that their spouses have been laid off or are having their hours cut. At least one and possibly 2-3 staff may need new or expanded health insurance benefits from the County as a result. If no insurance was taken previously this could mean a little over \$15,000/employee in additional expenses (family plan) for our budget.

-Lead Safe Home Loans: State Legislation has been proposed to put a \$0.50/gallon tax on paint to develop and support a revolving loan account for replacing lead based painted windows in pre 1950 homes. The loan would be available to any individuals with such homes as it is currently drafted. This would help us as we often struggle to find funding for abatement activities for families with lead poisoned children and windows are generally the primary concern. It could also help prevent poisoning if windows are replaced proactively. There are also energy use reduction benefits.

-Funding for DFC (late 2009) and Tobacco (2010): We may lose funding for both programs and lay offs may be needed. We are currently strategizing how to address this if it occurs.

-Union Contracts: passed.

-Gretchen Spicer (Mid-wife): Requested that we look into a way to provide OB and PNC services to Amish and Mennonite families. I will be discussing it with Lafayette and Iowa counties on March 25th and we will see if it is possible to add this to the services provided at the new FQHC in Darlington.

-WIC: Statistics regarding our WIC program were shared. We currently serve about 85% of eligible families. Other counties that have WIC administered by SWCAP serve only between 46.5% and 66.1% of eligible individuals. Last year \$735,693.88 worth of drafts were used to purchase food by low income families in Grant County as a result of this program. Our numbers of participants have been increasing likely due to the economy.

- ASSISTANT DIRECTORS REPORT(provided by the Director)— We are looking into buying a new billing program for our Home Health and Hospice program as we continue to have problems billing with the system that we are currently using. This may be a major expense. Mary will be looking at some options at the conference she is attending in May. We would likely be using carryover to fund this purchase (and some additional hardware)

Closed Session - None

ADJOURN: Grant Loy made a motion to adjourn, second by Ivan Farness. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

GRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Margaret Ruf, Secretary

